

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE
Week ending the 22nd December 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Matsen* [Calcutta] of the 10th December says that the European newspapers do not agree among themselves as to the future of China.

The future of China.

Every one of them speaks on behalf of the nation it represents. It seems, therefore, that the Chinese question will be settled in accordance with the views of these papers, and that the Chinese will lose their empire through their own folly and ignorance. Self-interest prevents the Powers from giving out their intentions with respect to China, but by-and-by they will do this. It is more than one century since the English obtained supremacy over India. For the purpose of strengthening their own position they had, for some time, to support the cause of native rulers, of whom even now there are not a few, although the British law is now in force all over India. Europeans plant a tree, and the fruits thereof they reap after a long time. While the Asiatic people prefer name to substance, the Europeans value only substance in utter disregard of name. The late ruler of Oudh was nominally a king, but virtually a State prisoner, yet with that he rested satisfied. The English, on the other hand, were nominally servants of that king, but in reality absolute master of the kingdom of Oudh. After all, China will become like India.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

2. The same paper has the following:—

Treaties between Turkey and Persia.

A Turkish newspaper says that Persia is going to make two treaties with Turkey, one of which is of a commercial character. The other having been executed very secretly, no one can say what its contents are. It may, however, be remarked in this connection that an effort should be made by the two Musalman potentates to reorganize their kingdoms upon such principles as may be beneficial to Musalmans at large. When the Shah was a guest of the Turkish Sultan, the meeting of the two Musalman monarchs was very cordial. The Sultan has admitted to the first-class Medjedic order one of the Persian dignitaries, and the Shah in his turn awarded gold medals to the members of the Turkish Royal family. All the expenses incidental to the Shah's journey through Turkey and his stay at Constantinople were borne by the Turkish Government.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.

A French newspaper says that perhaps the Sultan of Turkey intends to visit Persia to return the visit paid by the Shah on his way to Europe. At Teheran, the two Musalman Sovereigns will mutually settle the terms of the treaty for improving the moral and material condition of the Musalmans. Turkey and Persia are showing great activity in the matter of promoting the welfare of Musalmans. The Shah opened the railroad all over Persia, and intends to improve the indigenous manufactures of his kingdom. Schools and colleges are to be seen everywhere in Persia. The Shah is reorganizing his Military Department in an admirable manner. The above French paper advises the European Powers to be on their guard and to take steps to keep their commercial interest intact in Persia and Turkey.

3. The following is a translation of a small poem headed "The Lament of the Vanquished Boer" which is contributed by one Abani Mohan Chatterji to the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 11th December:—

"The lament of the vanquished Boer."

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

(1)

A nation of heroes that we are, how hard we have fought,
Even at the risk of our lives, to preserve our independence intact;
How many hundreds of valiant heroes we have parted with,
And yet, alas! we have lost our treasure of independence!

(2)

Whither, alas! hast thou, Joubert, life of the Boers,
Gone leaving us behind?
To what distant land hast thou repaired with an unfeeling heart?
Wilt thou not witness our endless degradation?

(3)

Without thee we have to-day lost our strength—
 Lost whatever resources we possessed;
 At last, and the confession rends the heart,
 We have lost our independence for ever.

(4)

To narrate the tale of our sufferings breaks the heart;
 We have, alas! worn the chain of slavery round our feet.
 The Boer's light of hope has gone out;
 We have lost wealth and life and honour.

(5)

Heroic Krüger, our head-jewel,
 There is to-day wailing in the country because you have left it—
 Gone is our hearth and home, gone our resources,
 With fear and sorrow are we all paralysed.

(6)

Blood flowed in torrents, caseless currents;
 Wife, son, and family we have offered up as sacrifice;
 And yet our vow was not fulfilled.
 Destruction is come upon us in life and wealth.

(7)

The fire of the Englishman's anger has brought desolation on us;
 From to-day lamentation is our sole resource.
 We get no food for the stomach, no cloth for the body.
 We live only to bear a load of misery.

(8)

Who knew that the Boer nation would be so luckless?
 That such evil days would come so soon?
 Who knew that for fighting against Englishmen
 The Boers would have to part with their treasure of independence?

(9)

No, brother, of this we have no doubt whatever,
 Never is the Englishman stony-hearted.
 Robbing us of our independence,
 Never will they bring rigorous rule into our country.

(10)

From to-day we become subjects of the English sovereign.
 Our Queen is a repository of mercy.
 Under her rule, brother, there is no oppression.
 We place our reliance on her mercy.

II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a).—Police.

PRATINIDHI,
 Dec. 11th, 1900.

4. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 11th December writes that thefts have become frequent in Brahmanberia, in the Tippera district. So long as Ramrup Singh was the head-constable of the place, the *badmashes* made themselves scarce, but they are at their old tricks again. A clever head-constable like Ramrup is indispensably necessary in the place.

HITAVADI,
 Dec. 14th, 1900.

5. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December complains of the prevalence of theft and negligence in the performance of the duty of keeping watch at night by chaukidars in Kankarkhuli, a village within the jurisdiction of the Dhanekhali thana in the Hooghly district. The thieves throw brickbats into people's houses, knock against their doors and sometimes keep themselves hiding in houses. The villagers sit up the whole night in fear.

BANKURA DARPAN,
 Dec. 16th, 1900.

6. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th December complains of the ravages of bears, leopards, and mad jackals in Sonamukhi and two adjoining villages in the Bankura district. The other day a woman of Bursa was bitten by a mad jackal, and the man who went to her help was also

bitten. Leopards are said to kill cattle and carry them away into the jungle. The other day a man of Sonamukhi was severely mauled by a bear.

7. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th December says that the scheme suggested by Sir Antony MacDonnell for reforming the police of the North-Western Provinces resembles, to some extent, the scheme which was adopted by an opium-eater to find out the thefts committed by his servant. The opium-eater used to give his servant one pice daily to fetch him milk, but the latter used to steal, out of that pice, a fourth part of it every day. To discover this theft the opium eater engaged two other servants. But they, in concert with the old servant, began to steal three-fourths of the pice daily given them for the purchase of milk. Sir Antony intends to appoint a number of secret detectives to keep an eye on the conduct of the police. It may be asked whether another set of detectives would be required to watch the conduct of the first set. Sir Antony MacDonnell is a high-minded and sagacious ruler, and will certainly do nothing which may lead to undesirable consequences.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 17th, 1900.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

8. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 23rd November draws attention to the injustice which has been done to Babu Lalit Mohan Sarkar of Jasai, within the jurisdiction of the Pangsa thana, in the Goalundo subdivision of the Faridpur district, in the assessment of the income-tax payable by him. Lalit Babu has been assessed to a tax of Rs. 10 per annum, although the account books of his business, which he produced before the Deputy Collector of Goalundo, showed that his gross profits last year did not amount to more than Rs. 231.

SANJAY,
Nov. 23rd, 1900.

The Deputy Collector disbelieved the account books, and dismissed the objection on the strength of the assessor's report—a report submitted without any local inquiry into the assessee's circumstances.

9. The same paper says that one Achhimaddi, a resident of Utrail, within the jurisdiction of Bhanga thana, in the Faridpur district, purchased taluk No. 177 in the Collectorate sale held towards the beginning of October 1899, but failed to deposit the earnest money. The Collector held this to be contempt of Court, and ordered Achhimaddi to be detained. The estate was again put up to auction, and fetched a price of Rs. 260. After the sale was over, Achhimaddi's entreaties induced the Collector to release him from custody, but a certificate was filed against him for the recovery of Rs. 845. Achhimaddi submitted a petition to the Deputy Collector, and the certificate was cancelled as illegal. On the 4th January 1900, however, all of a sudden, Achhimaddi was fined Rs. 200, and Rs. 20 was realised by the sale of his plough and cattle. It is evident that Achhimaddi will not be let alone so long as he does not pay the balance of the amount for the recovery of which the certificate was filed against him. Sir John Woodburn's attention is invited to this case.

SANJAY.

10. The *Som Prakash* [Calcutta] of the 26th November says that when the Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat, in the Nadia district, makes over cases to either of the Honorary Benches at Santipur, the parties are required to be present on the day fixed for the hearing, not at Santipur but at Ranaghat, where they are told to appear before the Bench at Santipur on a subsequent day. This subjects them to needless hardship, expense and inconvenience. Why not require them to appear at Santipur on the first day?

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 26th, 1900.

The new practice of requiring particular Honorary Magistrates to attend during particular weeks instead of getting all of them to attend simultaneously is productive of inconvenience. The Magistrate summoned for a particular day may be, as is often the case, prevented by illness or any other cause from attending on that day. The parties have often, in such cases, to come back disappointed.

Petty police cases and cases under the Municipal laws occurring in Santipur or its neighbourhood should be made over to Haridas Babu's file, or to the file of the other local Honorary Bench. Such cases should be disposed of first, and regular cases taken up next. The present practice of striking off regular cases

owing to the non-appearance of the parties at the moment their cases are called for hearing, causes them great hardship.

The Benches should always have a supply of stamps and court-fees and summons and warrant forms. They should also be provided with a seal and a punching instrument.

On the days on which Haridas Babu holds his court, a police constable should be in attendance.

BIKASH,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

11. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 11th December is sorry to learn that Babu Upendra Chandra Sen, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal, is in the habit of calling witnesses *gadha* (ass), *lukshmichhara* (ill-conditioned), and *ulruk* (dunce).

PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

12. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Calcutta] of the 11th December complains that it takes some six or seven months for the Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanberia, in the Tippera district, to finally dispose of a case. The officer also holds his court from 4 p.m. till a very late hour in the evening, and unnecessarily postpones cases, thereby causing much inconvenience to parties and their witnesses. The District Magistrate of Tippera is requested to keep an eye on the working of the local Bench Magistrates.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

13. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th December says that whilst Europeans and Eurasians have been admitted into every department of the public service, they have not endeavoured to enter into the subordinate branch of the Judicial service because high educational qualifications are required in its members, and because the office of a Munsif or Subordinate Judge is a most hardworked office. Officers in no other department are required to work so hard as Munsifs and Subordinate Judges. And their work is increasing in proportion to the increase in the number of law suits. A healthy young man entering the department loses his health and spirits before he has been long in the service. He goes away on sick leave when his health breaks down, and he comes back to follow the old routine again. His superiors are displeased, and his promotion is stopped if he does not keep his file clear. No wonder that an officer so overworked should die a premature death. No less than seven officers in this branch of the public service died in the course of the present year alone. Their names, as given by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, are as follows:—

- (1) Babu Hare Krishna Chatterji.
- (2) „ Triguna Prasanna Basu.
- (3) „ Haris Chandra Sen.
- (4) „ Hara Kumar Das.
- (5) „ Brajendra Lal De.
- (6) „ Bhawani Charan Mukharji.
- (7) „ Aghor Nath Biswas.

The first and second had been confirmed as Subordinate Judges only a short time before their death. The third died of epilepsy on the very day on which he was appointed a Subordinate Judge. The fourth was only a first grade Munsif. And the fifth was a second grade Munsif of only one year's standing.

The truth is that the number of officers in the department is too few for the work to be performed. One officer has to do the work of three. It is hoped that Government will increase the number of officers in this department.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

14. The same paper draws attention to the inconvenience which is suffered by the people of Khulna and Jessore in consequence of there being only one Sessions Judge for the two districts. The work is too heavy for one Judge, and an Additional Judge has to be appointed from time to time. The Khulna people more than once petitioned the Government for a separate Judge, but their prayer has not yet been granted. It is hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will remove the inconvenience of the Khulna and Jessore people.

15. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 12th December has the following about Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore:—

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

(1) He has no fixed hour for receiving petitions of complaint, which are taken one day at 10 A.M. and another day at noon. But a delay of even a minute or two in the submission of a petition throws him so much out of temper that he flings it away.

(2) About half the number of the cases which are filed before him every day are dismissed. Many cases tried by him are sent back by the higher courts for retrial; but as Mr. Jarbo himself retries them, they are, as a matter of course, again dismissed.

(3) He refuses to issue summonses to compel the attendance of witnesses.

(4) Though he does not know Bengali well, he allows no pleader or mukhtar to remain in court when a complainant is examined. He has, therefore, to depend wholly upon the translations which are made by the Bench clerk, and he loses his temper if any mukhtar or pleader who happens to be in court corrects any mistranslation made by the Bench clerk.

(5) He is not in his temper during the whole time he remains in court, and frightens parties and witnesses by his frowning looks.

(6) He does not allow pleaders and mukhtars to touch the records lest they should communicate to him any infectious disease.

(7) He refuses to admit to bail any accused person who enters appearance before the fixed day, and says:—"Let him go to the thana. I shall pass orders on his application for bail when he is brought before me handcuffed."

16. The *Murshadabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 12th December says that the District Magistrate of Murshidabad issued a notice to all persons within his jurisdiction, who are exempted from the operation of the Arms Act, to state the number of weapons they intended to keep. The notice was illegal, as the Magistrate was not empowered either by law or by Government to issue it. The matter having been brought to the notice of the Commissioner, the orders of the Magistrate were at once cancelled. Mr. Buckland has earned the thanks of the Murshidabad people by his act.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

17. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th December has heard complaints against the Munsif of Raojan, in the Chittagong district. The Munsif is very slow and examines only one or two witnesses a day, thus affording parties opportunities for tutoring their witnesses. He does not also allow the public to enter his court room, and holds his court till a very late hour in the evening. The Munsif rejects all applications and petitions which are presented after 11 A.M.

JYOTI,
Dec. 13th, 1900.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has learnt from its correspondent that Mr. Thomson, Deputy Magistrate of the Sonthal Parganas, is suffering from partial deafness, and is consequently unable to perform his judicial work properly. An enquiry ought to be made by the Government into Mr. Thomson's physical condition.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

19. The same paper has heard many complaints against Maulvi Bazlul Karim, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah. One of these is that on the 23rd November last, he sentenced a man named Hira Lal Pramanik to fifteen days' rigorous imprisonment and fifteen stripes for an offence of theft. Such a sentence is quite contrary to the law, section 391(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure prohibiting the combination of such sentences. Who would be responsible for the illegal act, if the sentence of whipping has been carried out? The authorities should consider if it is advisable to keep a Magistrate so ignorant of the law in a principal court in the metropolis.

HITAVADI.

20. The same paper has the following:—
The meaning of the expression "law's delay" will be best understood by observing the dilatory manner in which Mr. Gabriel, Joint-Magistrate of Begusarai, disposes of the criminal work of his subdivision. The following five cases, namely, (1) Khartar Kunjra *versus* Fermud Ali Khan and others,

HITAVADI.

Mr. Gabriel, Joint Magistrate
of Begusarai.

(2) Ramlal Singh *versus* Babua Singh and others, (3) Durga Jola *versus* Regan Dosad and others, (4) Tingar Singh *versus* Santokhi Singh and others, and (5) Nabi Bux *versus* Amir Darji and others—all petty summons cases and reported by the police as false—have been going on for the last three or four months, and the delay is subjecting the parties to considerable loss and harassment. In the case of Sib Goala *versus* Sib Mahato and ten others, the accused have been in *hajat* for some days past, and yet Mr. Gabriel is going on in his usual tardy style, ordering long postponements and taking up petty cases in the intervals. Mr. Gabriel seems to be a little too fond of sending accused persons to *hajat*.

Intoxicated with power, this boy civilian insults all natives, no matter how high or respectable their social position. He called Fermud Ali Khan, a respectable Musalman zamindar, "badmash" and compelled him to put off his shoes before entering into court. Maulvi Abdul Bari, another respectable zamindar and panchayat, and a Musalman Kazi were subjected to similar humiliations. He wrote a most discourteous letter to the two Munsifs of Begusarai, and so insulted the old and respectable Secretary of the local school at a meeting of the School Committee, that the gentleman who is the life and soul of the institution resigned his honorary office in disgust. Not content with applying abusive epithets to those with whom he comes into contact Mr. Gabriel is exceedingly fond of dismissing ministerial and other subordinate officers from the service. He has dismissed Digambar Shahai, the old peshkar of the criminal court, Mahammad Nur, a copyist, and Matab Lal, the peshkar of the Bench Court, while Narin Sahu, an old peon, has been given notice that his services will be shortly dispensed with. Mr. Gabriel has become extremely unpopular in his subdivision, and the sooner he is removed from Begusarai the better.

SANJAY,
Dec. 14th, 1900

21. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 14th December says that at present there are only two Deputy Magistrates in Faridpur head-quarters, one of whom has to pass most of his time in the mufassal and the other has to do singly the whole judicial work. But as the latter officer is also in charge of the treasury, he takes up cases very late in the day, and has to hold his court till 8 or 9 P.M., and has to postpone cases again and again. This causes much inconvenience to parties and their pleaders. It is not known whether Mr. Kiran Chandra De, the District Magistrate, is acquainted with this state of things and whether he has reported to Government about it. If he has already sent in a report, it is a wonder why Government has done nothing so long.

NAVA YUG,
Dec. 15th, 1900.

22. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 15th December says that one Nikunja Bihari Rai was sentenced by Babu Chandi Charan Chatterji, Subdivisional Officer of Vishnupur, in the Bankura district. The case came before the High Court on motion, and the Judges sent it back for retrial and ordered the fine to be refunded. Nikunja Bihari applied to the Subdivisional Officer to refund his fine. But that officer refused to refund it, because he thought that there was every probability of his being fined at the retrial too. Nikunja again applied to the High Court for the transfer of his case to the file of some other Magistrate. The High Court has granted his prayer and has called on the Subdivisional Officer to explain why he disregarded its order about refund of the fine.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 20th, 1900.

23. A correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th December says that on the 23rd November last Maulvi Abdul Saheb, Subdivisional Officer of Arambagh, in the Hooghly district, camped in the village Bali without giving previous notice to the parties. Consequently the parties who came to Arambagh with their witnesses had to hasten to Bali. On arrival there they had to wait till 4 P.M. under the trees, when the Maulvi Saheb made his appearance. He entered his camp without appearing to notice the parties, and sent word in the evening that he would take up no cases that day. It is impossible to describe the feelings of the parties who had brought pleaders from the Sadar when they heard this order. No inconvenience would have been caused if the Maulvi Saheb had previously given notice of the place of his encampment. Government officers should go to the mufassal in order to acquaint themselves

with the condition of the country, and not to try cases, but the Maulvi Sahab goes to mufassal only to try cases.

(d)—Education.

24. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th December has the following:—
 Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri's promotion to the Sanskrit College. We are glad to announce that on Friday last Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri was installed as Principal of the Sanskrit College. There can be no doubt that the news has caused the most intense and agonising pain to the Sastri's enemies. The heart-burning which is experienced by a malicious man is the natural effect of the poison which consumes his heart. Dull-witted as these people are they are unable to see that their needless grumbling does not at any time deserve to be listened to by Government. The noble-minded British Government has honoured the worth of an able and worthy man, and for this we are grateful to it. The Sastri's ancestors were all of them pandits of a high order and brightened the face of Bengal. We shall here barely mention the names of one or two of those great men. Rajendra Vidyalankar, who was the eighth in the line of ascent from the Sastri, was the principal *sabha pandit* of the Naldanga Raj family when that family first attained fame and prosperity. The Sastri's great-grandfather, Manikya Chandra Tarkabhusan, was a rival of the famous Jagannath Tarkapanchanan, and more than once vanquished that great scholar in the disputations held under the auspices of Sir William Jones, so that Jagannath's descendants as well as the Bhattacharyyas of Bhatpara at last consented to become his pupils. At the assemblage of pandits held on the occasion of the costly and grand *tula* ceremony performed by the mother of Pratap Chand, the Raja of Burdwan, the Sastri's grandfather, Srinath Tarkalankar, was present, and was accorded very high honours. He died at the early age of 27 by the hands of dacoits as he was returning home from Burdwan. The Sastri's grandfather's younger brother, Nilmani Nyayapanchanan, and his father, Ramkamal Nyayaratna, were in their time regarded as very distinguished pandits of the Nyaya school. His maternal grandfather, Rammanikya Vidyalankar, was at first the *sabha pandit* of Ramratan Rai, the zamindar of Narail, and subsequently in 1845-46 got the post of Assistant Secretary to the Sanskrit College, in which he was succeeded by the late Vidyasagar. That post was abolished, the Principalship being created in its place. The Sastri's eldest brother, Nanda Kumar Nyayachanchu, was a distinguished pandit and a professor in the Sanskrit College. In the certificate which was given him by the Hon'ble Ramaprasad Ray occurs the following sentence:—"Nearly half the Sanskrit celebrities of Bengal are students of this family, and no congregation of the pandits is considered complete to which his father is not invited." Further details regarding the Sastri's ancestors are unnecessary. We are really exceedingly glad to see him installed in the seat once occupied by his maternal grandfather. All Bengal is grateful to Government for the sound judgment it has shown by thus conferring this high and responsible post on an able man who belongs to a family of pandits instead of giving it to a man of common and obscure parentage. We pray to God that the Sastri may long enjoy that high honour undisturbed by danger or difficulty.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

25. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 12th December says that during his recent visit to Murshidabad, Mr. Buckland did a very noble act when inspecting the Berhampore College. During the late prevalence of cholera in Berhampore a student of the College hostel was attacked with the disease, and three students of the hostel attended upon him without fear for their lives. The Principal of the College had mentioned their names in his report and praised them in high terms. The Commissioner saw these students, shook hands with them, and thanked them for their noble act. Mr. Buckland's visit has pleased everybody.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

26. The following appears in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December over the signature "Students of the F.A. class of the Government Sanskrit College":—
 Complaints by the F.A. class Students of the Sanskrit College. (1) The number of teachers and professors in the institution is insufficient. Bireswar Babu has to teach English from the

HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

M.A. class of the College to the third class of the school. He cannot, therefore, devote much attention to the teaching of any particular class.

(2) It is a pity that Babu Sib Chandra Gui, who is M.A. in History, is not appointed to teach that subject.

(3) The reason why two or three candidates appearing at the F.A. Examination from this College fail in Sanskrit every year is that the text-book in Sanskrit appointed by the University is taught only three days in the week instead of being taught every day.

(4) The Assistant Librarian does not treat the students who come to read there well, and often refuses to issue books to them.

(5) Interruption is caused to the F.A. class students in consequence of the school department being let off for tiffin from 1 to 2 P.M., when the F.A. Class remains engaged.

(6) The Principal should write to the Principal of the Presidency College to remove the inconvenience which Sanskrit College students now suffer in consequence of their having to take their seats at a distance from the lecture table in the Chemistry class in the Presidency College.

NAVA YUG,
Dec. 15th, 1900.

27. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri's
appointment to the Sanskrit
College.

The appointment of Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri to the Principalship of the Sanskrit College has caused heartburning to a particular individual. A certain big man of the town made a pandit go round and round, like the bullock yoked to the oilman's mill, by holding out to him the false hope that he would secure the post for him. This has not only lowered the pandit in the public estimation, but has also affected the good name of the other party. There is very little need of discussing the merits of the Sastri who has been appointed. But it is certain that the public would have been pained to see a legal practitioner's son supersede a worthy descendant of a former Principal of the College.

NAVA YUG.

28. The rule authorising the admission of those students who have passed the Middle Vernacular Examination to the Dacca Medical School is not observed, and only those

students are admitted to the institution who have passed the Entrance Examination, or have failed to pass it. The course of study in the school now extends over four years instead of three as before. The labour and expense the students have now to undergo in order to qualify themselves for the final certificate are therefore much greater than before. Mr. Macrae, Superintendent of the school, is also harassing the students by issuing whimsical rules every now and then. Failure to pass an examination for two successive years makes a student liable to expulsion from the school. It is also said that last year Mr. Macrae expelled several students for failure to pass their examinations, although those were their first failures. He strikes off the names of the students who absent themselves for four or five days although no rules or regulations of the school require or authorise such expulsion. Last year all first-year students, except one, who failed to pass their examinations, were expelled. Was it impartial conduct on Mr. Macrae's part to keep only one student and expel all the rest? Eighteen scholarships and freeships were formerly given to newly admitted students according to their merit on the condition that the scholarships and freeships would be discontinued if their holders failed to pass the first half-yearly examinations in certain specified subjects. For the last two or three years Mr. Macrae has been awarding these scholarships and freeships, not at the time of admission, but on the result of the first half-yearly examination. At the last half-yearly examination freeships and scholarships were given according to this rule and many had already drawn their scholarships. But after two months Mr. Macrae stopped the scholarships and ordered their holders to refund all moneys they had drawn, saying that he wanted to follow the old rule about their award. Can any one say why the rule was altered in the middle of the year and not at its commencement? We draw the attention of the Government to this school.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 15th, 1900.

29. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri's
elevation to the Sanskrit College.

Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri has become Principal of the Calcutta Sanskrit College. This has given us pleasure. The Sastri comes of

a family of pandits, and is himself a pandit. He is conversant with many sastras, and, possessing as he does great proficiency in Sanskrit, is also acquainted with English. He knows the pandit class and understands Englishmen and is an influential man too. Many people think that he will be able to raise the Sanskrit College to a condition of daily increasing prosperity.

30. The following criticism of some of the new rules relating to Text-book Committees appears in the English columns of the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 17th December :—

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 17th, 1900.

The new rules relating Text-book Committees.

Rule 3.—The proportion of official to non-official members of the Committee shall be as two to one. Some of the official members should be persons outside the Education Department.

It is much to be regretted that even in the matter of education, Government looks more to the official preponderance on the Committee than to real efficiency. We fail to understand the anxiety of the Government in this matter even in regard to such Committees. This will naturally be a sufficient warning for all honourable men to be away from being on the Committee. The official packed jury will never be able to forget the "mandate" theory, and will think themselves bound to serve the salt they eat. The inception of such invidiousness even in such a subject is highly deplorable.

Rule 4.—All members of the Text-book Committee shall be appointed by Government on the nomination of the Director of Public Instruction.

It is nowhere suggested on what principle the Director of Public Instruction will make the nomination. It is not likely that he must be personally aware of all men really fit to sit on the Committee. Such nomination is more likely to encourage *apkawastism* than anything else.

Rule 6.—The functions of the Committees are strictly limited to advising the local Government with regard to those books that are forwarded to them by the Director of Public Instruction. With the Local Government rests the ultimate decision as to the text-books which are to be prescribed or approved for schools in Bengal.

The monopoly thus guaranteed to the Director of Public Instruction of fixing his *imprimatur* as the only passport for the entry of a book on the table of the Committee will be a fertile source of just complaint and abuse of power. It goes without saying that the Director of Public Instruction, not being able to discharge this part of his duty personally, either from his absolute ignorance or at best very imperfect knowledge of the vernaculars of this Presidency, must have to relegate his powers in the matter of the selection of such books to his office-underlings and from the cover thus created for them they shall be potent in mischief-making without being directly exposed to public criticism.

Rule 7.—The Committee will have no concern with the text-books of schools under the Code Regulations for European schools unless they are specially referred to the Committee for opinion by the Government or by the Director of Public Instruction.

We have been now pretty well used to this sort of distinction by the special section in the Criminal Procedure Code in respect of the European British-born subjects, and we do not demur to this bar being imposed upon the Committee against treading upon the hallowed ground. But is it not ridiculous to think that the very same set of rules which empower the Director of Public Instruction, possibly innocent of the vernaculars, to nominate books written in the different vernaculars should impose the restrictions mentioned in this rule upon the Committee?

Rule 8.—The Government has the right of prescribing a text-book on a particular subject, in exceptional circumstances, for use in all schools, whether Government or aided, situated in territories under its jurisdiction.

It is not said if Government should exercise this special power in respect of some book selected by the Committee or any book that may succeed in engaging the attention of Government.

Rule 14.—If it be represented from any trustworthy quarter that a book in common or accepted use, or a new or little-known book, has found no place in the list; or that a book approved by the Committee is unsuited for use in schools, the Director of Public Instruction shall represent the matter to the Committee concerned, and, after ascertaining the views of the members, it shall

be within his competency to decide finally whether the book should be included in, or excluded from, the list. Should a question of principle be involved, the Director of Public Instruction should represent the conflicting views to Government for ultimate decision.

This is putting the cart before the horse. Such recommendations from the public should have been received prior to Director's nomination. We have no great faith in the disposal of business at such appellate stage.

Rule 15.—The President of each Committee shall decide for what particular grade of school and for which classes in schools, the various approved text-books may be suitable.

Is the Director fit to do this? We believe not.

Rule 20.—The Director of Public Instruction is not bound to say why a book is not considered to be fit for examination.

This is undoubtedly the worst of all the rules. This introduction of the *purdah* will not let light in. Why this love for darkness? It will often undeservedly protect the wrong-doer, and his evil motive too, and will deny the rejected author the privilege of combating the cause of rejection.

(e)—Local-Self Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

31. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th December writes that cholera is prevalent in the villages of Narayanpur, Rahi, and Saidpur, in the Mymensingh district, and many deaths have taken place from the disease. The inhabitants of these villages are low class Musalmans who have not means enough to call in doctors. The District Board should send a doctor to these villages to treat the cholera patients. The practice of washing the clothes of cholera patients in the tank belonging to the Singhas of the village Bangala should be stopped.

BIKASH,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

32. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 11th December says that Babu Bipin Bihari Sen, the doctor in charge of the Barisal hospital, has made himself very unpopular by his rude and discourteous manner. One Abdul went to the hospital for medicine. But the doctor refused to give him any, simply because he had a plump appearance and his hair was parted in the middle of the head. Mohini, an indoor patient, was suffering from syphilitic ulcers. The doctor expelled her from the hospital. She then came as an outdoor patient, but the doctor did not allow her to enter the hospital compound. But a local doctor who examined her expressed the opinion that she was fit to be admitted as an indoor patient. The inmates of the female ward are often heard to cry even for a little water. One Sasi, who had been serving for the last three or four years as a maid-servant in the Zanana Hospital, was dismissed by the doctor in spite of the order of the Chairman of the municipality to retain her services. The doctor publicly says that he has nothing to do with the municipality. A few days ago he told a Commissioner to his face:—"The municipality is our servant." The Dispensary Committee ought to keep a strict eye on the doctor.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

33. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th December says that much oppression is being committed by the employes of the Calcutta Municipality on the house-owners who are repairing their houses on account of the damage sustained by them in the heavy rainfall of September last. House No. 302, Upper Circular Road, which was severely damaged, is being repaired, but is receiving no alteration. But the building overseer of the municipality is raising objections to its repair on the ground that the sanitary condition of the house is not good; there not being sufficient open space in it, although the Deputy Chairman of the municipality who visited the house expressed the opinion that there could be no objection to its being repaired. The repair of the house has been delayed for the last three or four months on account of the objection.

There is an old unused well in Heramba Das's Lane, Jhamapukar, which is a nuisance to the locality. The inhabitants of the place requested the municipality to fill it up with earth, but this has not been done. The attention of the Health Officer of the municipality is drawn to this well.

34. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December draws attention to the miserable condition of the municipal tank at Champatala in Calcutta and to its insanitary surroundings. Every other municipal tank in the town lies in a square which has a road on every side of it, but the east side of the Champatala tank is blocked by low ugly-looking insanitary huts. One fails to see why the Calcutta Municipality pays no heed to the health and comfort of the residents of Champatala.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

The Editor inspected the tank and was astonished to see its deplorable condition. It is no credit to the Calcutta Municipality that there should be such a filthy place in the town. The tank ought to be cleared and put in order.

35. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 15th December says that the stench issuing from the rotten weeds which have grown on the water's edge in the tank in College Square, Calcutta, has become a nuisance to the public, who come to take walks in the square. As the tank is leased out by auction, the municipality does not pay much attention to it. The lessee of the tank permits the growth of weeds, perhaps, in the belief that they help his fish to thrive. The attention of the municipal authorities is drawn to this.

NAVA YUG,
Dec. 15th, 1900.

36. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 19th December has the following:—
The working of the Calcutta Municipality has been always looked upon with dissatisfaction by the public. Mismanagement is the chief feature of the municipality. In not a single department is there any order. Anyone coming to the office of the municipality finds himself in the midst of what looks like a bazar. Even the method and order which is met with in the New Market is not to be found in the Municipal Office, where everything is in a state of disorder. Whoever goes to transact any business at this office is at a loss to find out the officer to whom he should apply. The corridors and passages of the office are always filled with large crowds. It is very probable that either the number of officers required for the good working of each department is far smaller than what it should be, or that the existing officers are incompetent to exercise a proper supervision over their subordinate staff. The office talks much, but works little.

PRABHAT,
Dec. 19th, 1900.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

37. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 16th December has the following:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 16th, 1900.

"How Government is robbed of its property."

The Government is not an individual. It is true that the Secretary of State and the Governor-General are called responsible authorities, but so extensive is their sphere of work that they are perfectly unable to exercise a direct and personal supervision over matters affecting the pecuniary interests of the empire. The case is much the same with the Lieutenant-Governor, but the Divisional Commissioner, and especially the Collector, can, if they are so minded, attend to such interests as regards the local areas forming their respective jurisdictions. If any of these local authorities indirectly made over to anybody even one-half of a district, Government would have no means of getting the information. What Government sees is only rough and approximate revenue accounts. Suppose the land revenue collections from the permanently-settled estates in the Dacca district annually amount to five lakhs, and those from the khas mahals in the same district stand at one lakh of rupees. Government would be satisfied if only it saw these six lakhs properly accounted for. This is a state of things which would make it possible for the local officers with the connivance of the wealthy and influential men in the district to deprive Government of a good deal of its property, if only they had a mind to do so. They might, for instance, make an understanding with a powerful landlord owning a small estate adjoining a large Government estate to the effect that he might take possession of three-fourths of the land in the latter estate and go on preparing such documents as would be necessary to prove his possession for upwards of twelve years, without meeting with any opposition by or on behalf of Government, provided the tenants holding the remaining one-fourth were shown as paying the revenue payable by the entire estate. In other words, if a tenant who paid one hundred rupees for holding as many bighas of land now pays the same amount as the rent of twenty five bighas, Government suffers no loss

of revenue for the time being. It might find itself a loser, when this tenant had relinquished possession, though even in that case it might not discover the fact for reasons which will be stated later on.

Besides the khas mahals which are directly the property of Government, all permanently-settled estates are also its property, though held by it indirectly. These estates are liable for the revenue demand and are sold when there has been failure to meet that demand. At these revenue sales, if there are no purchasers, Government itself has to purchase the estates at a nominal price. Hundreds of estates in the Dacca district have in this way come into the khas possession of Government. Until a new settlement is made, Government derives no revenue from such estates. It is extremely difficult for outsiders to make an estimate of the loss of revenue occasioned in this way, and all information bearing on the point is possibly regarded as an official secret. As a publication of the true figures may reflect discredit on the Collectors of districts, the public have no means of obtaining them from the Collectorate.

To come to another matter. Why are the permanently-settled estates sold in this way? The land comprised in such estates now yields an income which is at least ten times that which was derived from it at the time of the permanent settlement, because the price of agricultural products has increased eight to ten fold, and much waste land has been brought under cultivation since that settlement was made. A piece of land which at the time of the permanent settlement yielded an income of Rs. 110 was assessed to a revenue of Rs. 100 only. If that income has increased, as it has undoubtedly done, with the increase in the price of grains, the present income from the land may be fixed at Rs. 1,100. Why do the proprietors then find themselves unable to pay a revenue of Rs. 100 on account of a property which brings them an income of Rs. 1,100? Why, again, do not others purchase the property, while Government is obliged to purchase it at a nominal price and suffer loss on its account? The answer is because—

1. The greater portion of the land in such mahals has been forcibly taken possession of by the proprietors of other mahals, thereby making the former losing concerns.

2. The tenants of such mahals are so powerful that they do not pay even equitable rents, and the cost of litigation for the purpose of recovering rents being excessive, the landlords are unable to institute suits for arrears of rent.

3. Such mahals are liable to be lost in river diluvion.

4. Such mahals are overgrown with jungle owing to loss of population.

5. Rent is not properly collected from such mahals owing to the carelessness of the landlords.

Most mahals are sold owing to the first and second causes. As for the third and fourth causes, though an estate may through their operation cease to be paying for a time, still the expectation of a better state of things which may be brought about by the alluvial action of rivers and increased productiveness prevents the proprietors from getting it sold. Even when an estate is sold through the operation of the third and fourth causes, it is the first cause that hastens the sale. As soon as an estate ceases to be paying in consequence of river encroachments or the growth of jungle, it is coveted by the powerful proprietors of the neighbouring estates and claimed as part of their property. The rightful owner is compelled to relinquish possession, for he sees that the survey maps are of no use in substantiating his claim. When estates are sold owing to the fifth cause, there is always an appeal to set aside the sale. So it would not be wrong to say that such sales as are not appealed against are all of them brought about by the operation of causes 1 and 2. A glance at the state of things in Dacca alone will enable our readers to form an idea of the number of mahals which are thus brought to the hammer. In Dacca the number of mahals is about 8,500, of which nearly 300 are sold every year, so that since the time of the permanent settlement nearly 90 per cent. of the mahals or 8,000 out of the 8,500 mahals in the Dacca district have changed hands as a result of sales for arrears of land revenue. Even such mahals as may be reasonably expected to produce an income ten times the amount of the revenue demand are being brought to the hammer owing to the first and second causes. That is to say, the proprietors of about 8,000 out of every 8,500 mahals in these provinces are being ruined in consequence

of faulty laws made by Government or of shortcomings on the part of the Collectors.

Government, however, becomes slightly a gainer by inflicting this loss on landlords. Some of the estates which are sold owing to the third and fourth causes and purchased by Government at a nominal price cannot be taken possession of by the powerful proprietors of the neighbouring estates who are prevented by fear of Government from doing so. The estates thus purchased by Government are precisely those which their weak proprietors, unable to protect their rights against the encroachment of powerful neighbours, have caused to be sold. Now, in the case of such estates, Government, as the purchaser, can at once enter upon possession, provided there be no bar of limitation on the score of twelve years' possession, and fix the land revenue demand in regard thereto at a considerably higher figure than that at which it formerly stood. The loss of revenue on account of the mahals which have gone out of its possession is thus made good by these increased assessments. Government is not therefore able to see that wealthy people are robbing it of the greater portion of the land in the khas mahals as well as in the permanently-settled mahals which such purchase has brought into its possession by throwing dust into the eyes of the Collectors, or somehow purchasing their goodwill.

We do not say that it is in consequence of money inducements offered by wealthy men that the Collectors and Commissioners are thus making over to wealthy zamindars the greater portion of the land belonging to Government and weak landlords. It is the carelessness of these officers that we consider to be the cause of such loss. And this carelessness becomes culpable when they remain indifferent even after the evil has been pointed out to them. Considering the vast extent of the local area which constitutes their jurisdiction, it is quite possible that they may not discover for themselves cases of wrongful possession of Government land by private individuals, but when they overlook, as they frequently do, such cases when clearly pointed out to them, the public are forced to think that they are purposely making a gift of Government property to others. It is within our knowledge that Government land yielding an annual income of Rs. 12,000 is being wrongfully held by certain influential men. We have more than once indirectly referred to the fact, but the officers of Government have paid no attention to it. One gains nothing by showing that land which belongs to Government is in the actual possession of others, and yet if one shows this and is refused a hearing by the officers of Government, it is Government that is cheated. Even if all this fails to attract its attention, there is no use of our repeatedly referring to the matter and thereby creating a host of powerful enemies. We therefore stop here.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

38. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th December has the

The best form of irrigation in following:—
Bengal.

It is impossible to carry on agricultural operations without water, and for water for agricultural purposes we have to depend mainly on rainfall and subsoil supply. The famines of the present day are, for the most part, due to deficient rainfall. Man has no control over nature, and cannot produce rain when rain is wanted. He must, therefore, find out other means for irrigation when rain fails. He must look towards subsoil water. The Hindu kings of old did not depend on rainfall as the sole means of irrigating fields, but excavated large tanks and wells for storing up water to meet emergencies. The English Government, too, have excavated irrigation canals in many places for this purpose. But the excavation of irrigation canals is a very costly affair and does not often produce the desired result. We are, therefore, opposed to the excavation of such canals. The Government may construct such canals in places in which the cost of their construction is not likely to be great. But in most places agricultural operations may be conducted without depending on rain water, if the Government excavates large tanks and artesian wells, wherever their excavation is practicable. In order to dig artesian wells scientists ought to be appointed to examine the soil and work those spots where subsoil water is not far below the surface. If the Government has

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 16th, 1900.

recourse to these means, we think that the people will no longer have any cause of complaint about the evils arising from deficiency of rainfall.

(h)—General.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

39. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 12th December says that during his recent visit to Murshidabad, Mr. Buckland in Murshidabad. Mr. Buckland, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, gave an audience to the principal gentry and nobility of the place and received them very kindly. A certain titled gentleman had to wait long before he was received. But Mr. Buckland had no hand in the matter, and the delay in his reception was the fault of the man who was appointed to conduct gentlemen to the Commissioner's presence. When the matter was brought to Mr. Buckland's notice, he severely rebuked the ushering officer.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

40. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th December is glad to learn that Australia has invited India to send a number of her native troops to join in the rejoicings which will be held on the occasion of the celebration of the Australian Federation. It is good for neighbours to be on terms of cordial friendship. But neither is it reasonable, nor would it be possible, for India to spend a large sum of money in order to establish friendship with Australia. We had, therefore, expected that the expenses of the Indian troops who will go to Australia would be borne either by Australia or by England. But we have been disappointed. It has been decided to throw the whole expense, estimated at Rs. 77,000, on the Indian tax-payer. It seems strange that the Government of India should spend so much money for a festive purpose when it can hardly find enough for the relief of distress arising from famine.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 13th, 1900.

41. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th December thanks Lord Curzon for removing the groundless belief which had been created in the public mind by the press rumour that His Lordship had passed secret orders for the exclusion of natives from the public service and a larger employment of Eurasians in it.

SANJIVANI.

42. The same paper says that the Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 77,000 for defraying the expenses of the troops who have been sent to Australia to take part in the Australian Federation. It is a wonder that such a large sum should be spent to please Australia which is not friendly to the Indians.

KHULNA,
Dec. 13th, 1900.

43. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 13th December says that the Khulna Post Office has often been noticed to remain closed till 6-30 A.M., although the mail leaves the place at 5-8 A.M. The practice of delivering deferred telegrams through postal peons has long been discontinued in other places, but still exists in Khulna.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

44. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—
In our last (Report on Native Papers for 15th December, paragraph 51), we quoted only three names to show how the income-tax assessment officers in Calcutta reduce assessments under secret arrangements with the parties. The fact has created some commotion in the Income-tax Office, and some of its employes have become uneasy. To help the authorities in their investigation, we give below a further list of persons whose assessments were reduced without sufficient grounds:—

Name of person and address.	Original assessment.			Final assessment.			Reduction in assessment.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Bhagwan Das Bansilal, 27 Pageya Pati Street ...	130	3	4	104	2	8	26	0	8
Sri Kissen Sew Kissen, 11 Pageya Pati Street ...	1,041	10	8	807	4	8	234	6	0
Labh Chand Ranchnas, 11 Pageya Pati Street ...	1,041	10	8	651	0	8	390	10	0

Name of person and address.	Original assessment.			Final assessment.			Reduction in assessment.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Mulchand Khetry, 11 Pageya Pati Street ...	260	6	8	208	5	4	52	1	4
Gurus Ram Jaharmal, 11 Pageya Pati Street ...	520	13	4	390	10	0	130	4	8
Ram Kissen Das Daga, 11 Pageya Pati Street ...	520	13	4	416	10	8	104	2	8
Bhagwan Das Sri Kissen Das ...	651	0	8	390	10	0	260	6	8
Haridas Gobardhan Das, 46 Mullick Street ...	130	3	4	104	2	8	26	0	8
Surajmal Gokuldas, 14-1 Banstola Street ...	781	4	0	520	13	4	260	6	8
Makhon Lal Khetry, 37 Banstola Street ...	651	0	8	546	14	0	104	2	8
Badridas Surika, 7 Banstola Street ...	260	6	8	204	5	4	56	1	4
Sagun Chand Sew Chand, 9 Burtola Street ...	781	4	0	651	0	8	130	3	4
Mohanlal Jahali, 26 Burtola Street ...	468	12	0	130	4	3	337	8	8
Chograj Ram Bilas, 71 Burtola Street ...	390	10	0	286	7	4	104	2	8
Ram Narayan Chaturbhuj, 71 Burtola Street ...	156	4	0	130	3	4	26	0	8
Chandmal Dipchaud, 71 Burtola Street ...	130	3	4	91	2	4	39	1	0
Dhanraj Ganpat Rai, 22 Burtola Street ...	130	3	4	65	1	8	65	1	8

These reductions were made in the assessments of 1899-1900. Many secrets will come to light if the authorities enquire into the grounds of reduction and the number of objections in each case, and the composition deed in those cases in which the parties agreed to pay the same tax for three years. An investigation will cause little trouble.

45. The same paper makes the following observations on Lord Curzon's reply to the address of the Mysore Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association:—

Lord Curzon on special favours to Eurasians.

The attachment springing from a blood-connection is indestructible. That is the reason why Lord Curzon's utterances about special favours to Eurasians have failed to reassure us, especially as we have not as yet seen His Lordship's professions realised in practice. Many people say that the Indians are not the only people for whom the Government of India has to think, and that the Indian Viceroy has many things else to do and think of. We do not think so. If the Indian administration is not carried on for the good of Hindus and Musalmans, and if the Indian Viceroy has anything else to do besides looking after the welfare of the Indian people, that administration will do no good either to the rulers or to the ruled. India belongs to the Indians. The ruler of India must, therefore, always act solely with an eye to their good. Eurasians can have no claim upon, or right to, India. The blood which flows in their veins comes from the ruling race. They ought, therefore, to be cared for and fattened with money brought from England. We fail to see by what political right Lord Curzon wants to snatch away our morsel of food from our mouths and give it to Eurasians. We are a subject-people. But the Eurasians are neither subjects nor rulers. On what ground, then, are administrative rights to be conferred on them? In the belief that Lord Curzon has frankly spoken out his mind, we, too, have frankly spoken out our mind. However much His Lordship might attempt to conceal his mind by putting up before it a dexterously woven veil of words, the eyes of the Indians, sharpened by poverty, cannot fail to penetrate it.

46. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th December is grateful to Government for the solicitude it has evinced in the Hedjaz pilgrimage rules to save the lives of its subjects. There is no doubt that the rules will be accepted by all Indian Musalmans with satisfaction.

The Hedjaz pilgrimage rules.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

SANJAY,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

47. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 14th December asks the authorities

The cost of the census operations.

to see that no oppression is committed on the people in realising the cost of the census operations.

According to the rules which have been published, one pice only is to be realised from each block towards the expenses of these operations. But as the realisation of this fee has been entrusted to chaukidars and dafadars in many places, it is feared that oppressions will be committed.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 15th, 1900.

48. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

Lord Curzon on the employment of Eurasians.

Lord Curzon has now, for the last two years, wielded the viceregal sceptre, and we have during this period come to know much about his views and disposition, habits and tastes, ways and inclinations. From what we now know of him, we think that whenever he is charged with having done anything wrong, the public should carefully enquire into the charge. Much fuss was lately made in the papers over a certain circular and certain instructions which His Excellency was alleged to have secretly issued to all Heads of public offices authorising the employment of Eurasians to the exclusion of natives. The allegation was baseless. We did not believe it. So far as the public understand Lord Curzon, they do not believe that he is capable of doing any such thing. It is not improbable that the British Government cherishes more good will for Eurasians than for other races. Nor are attempts to improve the condition of one's own people reprehensible. In some offices on the occurrence of vacancies the head Babus, it is said, overlook the claims of competent men and give the appointments to their own relatives. Such partiality towards one's own friends and relations is natural. English blood flows in the veins of the Eurasians, and they are, therefore, near relations of Englishmen. It is, therefore, only natural on the part of an English Viceroy to endeavour to provide for Eurasians before others, no matter whether or not they are competent. But so great is our confidence in Lord Curzon's sense of duty that we do not believe that His Excellency will injure both Government and the people by appointing incompetent Eurasians to the public service, and thereby give proof of his ingratitude. He has come to govern the country smoothly. How could the work of administration be carried on smoothly if incompetent men, no matter whether Eurasian or native, were appointed to the public service? It is our belief that a man like Lord Curzon, with his strong sense of duty, understands this very well, and it was because our belief was such that we did not entertain the charge which was brought against him and make a needless fuss over the matter. Lord Curzon cannot be, and has not been, guilty of such partiality. His Excellency made the following remarks in the course of his reply to the Bangalore address:—

"I cannot create special opportunities or special exceptions in your (Eurasians') favour. I have recently seen in the papers what purports to be a reproduction of certain new rules which I am alleged to have issued for your admission to the Government of India Secretariat, as well as certain secret instructions for excluding natives of India from particular posts for your special benefit. The press in India knows a good many things that do exist, but it also knows, or affects to know, a great many that do not. All I can say is that these rules or these instructions are unknown to me. I am also reported by the newspapers to have created a new class of Extra Assistant Commissioners in Assam, to be exclusively reserved for Eurasians. This, again, is news to me. Some of these posts have been left open to, and may, I hope, be filled by, duly qualified members of your community; but the Government of India cannot here or anywhere else constitute a special preserve into which none but Eurasians may intrude. I have thought it advisable to make these remarks, both to remove from your minds, if it there exists, the impression that Government, in its desire to be fair to you, can anywhere consent to be unfair to others."

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 17th, 1900.

49. Referring to Lord Curzon's contradiction of the rumour that the

Lord Curzon on special favour to Eurasians.

Government of India had issued secret orders for excluding natives from the Government offices as much as possible and for largely employing Eurasians therein, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th December writes as follows:—

The Government of India should now enquire why this rumour arose. Was the circular of which the *Madras Times* spoke only an invention of the

Editor's brain? If the *Madras Times*' information was wrong, it was deceived, it was a dupe—not a deceiver itself. But if the circular was really issued, Lord Curzon ought to see from it, at a glance, what his subordinate officials can do without his knowledge. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal once said with a smile that he was like wax in the hands of his Secretaries, that is to say, that his Secretaries could mould him into any shape they liked.

The native press perpetually suffers from dearth of news, and is, therefore, always eager for news. Government supplies no news to any newspaper which is not under its aegis, and which does not enjoy official patronage. At one time the daily *Hindoo Patriot* enjoyed this patronage, and in consequence its Editor had to run, proofs in hand, to a certain high official. But everybody cannot do that. All inconvenience and misconception would be removed by the Government's supplying news to all newspapers.

Lord Curzon may easily satisfy himself that our fear of being superseded in Government offices by Eurasians is not unfounded. What is it that makes the Heads of Government offices prefer half-educated Eurasians to native graduates? It is not ability but the *sola* hat, worth a rupee and a quarter, which sends the balance down in favour of the former. In 1897 Sir James Westland issued a circular, with the assent of Lord Elgin, for the ousting of natives from Government offices by Europeans and Eurasians. How can it be said then that pay or promotion in Government offices depends on ability?

50. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 18th December says that Babu Purna Chandra Mitra who was officiating as Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, has been deprived of his appointment, and the post has been given to a young Civilian, although the permanent incumbent has not as yet returned from leave. Purna Babu discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the Board, and Mr. Oldham, late member of the Board, was very much pleased with his work. Cannot Mr. Nolan, the new Member, work with a Bengali Secretary?

BANGABHUMI,
Dec. 18th, 1900.

The Junior Secretaryship of the Board of Revenue.

51. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th December has the following:— Lord Curzon's Bangalore speech has disappointed the Eurasians. But we see no reason why they should feel disappointed. Notwithstanding what Lord Curzon has said, they will have no difficulty in getting big posts in Government offices. There is a Bengali saying that no matter however unpropitious the head of the family, an intimacy with the cook will enable one to get a good dinner. However impartial Lord Curzon may be, Eurasians will have no difficulty in getting good posts in the Government offices, if they are only fortunate enough to be in the good books of the Heads of Departments. We learn in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that many high officials are extremely anxious to become the patrons of Eurasians, though it is not known for what reason. There may be various reasons for this partiality. One is that Eurasians have some blood connection with Europeans, and another is that a father is more kind to his worthless than to his worthy sons. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has mentioned the names of many Europeans of high position who have evinced partiality for Eurasians, and the name of Mr. Oldham, who is held in so much reverence in Calcutta, is one among them.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 20th, 1900.

So long as Lord Ripon was in India, natives as well as Eurasians were admitted to the Foreign Department by competitive examination. But as soon as Lord Ripon went away, Sir Mortimer Durand, the Foreign Secretary, failed to repress his partiality for Eurasians and discontinued the practice of recruiting for his department by competitive examination on the ludicrous ground that competitionwallas could not be trusted with the secret and important duties of the Foreign Office, and that they did not turn out good assistants. But all the assistants who have been expelled from that office from the year 1833 to the year 1899 for incompetency have been Eurasians of whom Sir Mortimer had a very high opinion. Not a single native assistant has had ever to be dismissed on that ground.

We believe in Lord Curzon's greatness and magnanimity, and it is to be hoped that instead of treating us only to sweet words, he would distribute his gifts equally among all communities. We shall be pained if only the smallest

crumbs come to us, and all the bread and butter to white men. It is not enough for him to declare his own impartiality, but he should impress on his subordinates the necessity of being impartial.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

JYOTI,
Dec. 13th, 1900.

52. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th December says that Sir John Woodburn is loved and respected by the people for his kind and affable manners. It is said that His Honour chatted and even cracked jokes with the coolies of the Nasaribad Model Farm in the Chittagong district. Great men do not certainly lose their greatness by talking with low class people. May God grant long life to Sir John Woodburn.

53. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th December gives a Bengali translation of the English paragraph which appeared in the extraordinary issue of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th December [see Report on Native Papers for 15th December, paragraph 63.]

Sir John Woodburn's evening party in Chittagong.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 13th, 1900

HITAVADI,
Dec. 14th, 1900.

54. Referring to the peroration of Lord Curzon's reply to the address of the Mysore and Coorg Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association, in which His Lordship clears the Government of India of the charge brought by the press of creating special opportunities for the admission of Eurasians into the public service, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th December says that within the last forty years no other Indian Viceroy stood up publicly to contradict news published in the newspapers. So long newspapers, and native newspapers in particular, had been slighted by the Government. Lord Curzon has shown a regard for the newspapers by contradicting it. For this one reason only, the native press ought to be grateful to His Excellency. Though the contradiction was made in a taunting style, it gives the conductors of the native press very great pleasure to have so far been honoured by the Viceroy as to have an unfounded statement made by them contradicted by the highest official in the land.

55. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th December has the following:—
In his reply to the address of the Madras Mahajan Sabha, Lord Curzon said that the Sabha consisting as it did of only two hundred members, could not boast of being the mouth piece of the country, and its representations could not, therefore, be of any weight. But is number the only criterion of the representative character of a public body? We fail to see why the Mahajan Sabha should not be looked upon as the people's spokesman, if it truly represents their needs and grievances. It is also not quite clear why the sorrows and pressing grievances of two hundred millions of men should not be considered properly voiced by a public body composed of two hundred honest and patriotic men, when a handful among the able body of Parliamentary members are thought competent to wield the destinies of the British Isles, and when the views of this handful of men are placed before the world as the views of all England. The Mahajan Sabha said nothing which the National Congress has not all along been pressing upon the notice of Government, and of the truth of which Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, that eminent Indian who is a glory to his country, has not, by the light of his thirty years' official experience, been endeavouring to convince successive Viceroys and the British public. We cannot, therefore, consider what the Sabha said as unwise or indiscreet, as it dealt with real and not imaginary evils.

May we ask whether the National Congress being representative of all India, and not a non-representative body as he considers the Mahajan Sabha to be, His Excellency would give a hearing to the Sabha's complaints if the National Congress puts forth the same?

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 28th, 1900.

56. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 28th November states that the Raja of Bamra paid a visit to some of the towns in the Orissa Province and encouraged some of the educational institutions of that province by liberal donations. The educated native public accorded him a grand reception.

The Bamra Raja's encouragement of education in Orissa.

57. The same paper is of opinion that the temples of Bhubaneswar in the Puri district need urgent repairs, and that the Hindu public ought to do something in this direction.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISINI,
Nov. 28th, 1900.

58. The same paper regrets that the Muhammadans of India do not join the Indian National Congress in large numbers and are contemplating to start a Congress of their own. The writer observes that the Hindus and the Muhammadans should join together to further their common interest by joint labour and co-operation, and must not in any way sow the seeds of dissension amongst themselves, for no nation can prosper without union.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISINI.

59. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th December is glad to notice that the authorities in India are contemplating to impart a military training to the nobles of India and hopes that some practical steps will be taken during the viceroyalty of Lord Curzon to put the happy idea into a tangible form.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

60. Referring to the resolution of Government, regarding the travels of Native Chiefs and Princes in foreign countries, the *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 6th December is sorry to note that this is going too far, for the Chiefs and Princes for whom the resolution is meant will not at all like another check to be placed on their free tastes and dispositions.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

61. The same paper points out that the circular amending the recent circular on the subject of fines to be imposed on clerks in Government offices is not very clear, and that different interpretations may be put on it by different Heads of Departments.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

62. Referring to the conduct of a large number of Muhammadan youths towards many of their country-women, as detailed in many native papers in Bengal, the same paper observes that the Muhammadans of Orissa are free from the alleged vice, though they are liable to be tainted by the company of Bengal Muhammadans, of whom a large number have commenced to visit Orissa through the agency of the Railway.

SMVADVAHIKA.

63. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th December draws the attention of the District Magistrate of Cuttack to the fact that the subordinate police officers are in the habit of sending up false cases as true, and cites an example to substantiate the truth of its remark. The writer hopes that the higher authorities concerned will inspect the work of their subordinates with a critical eye.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 8th, 1900.

ASSAM PAPERS.

64. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 30th November says that kitchen vegetables are very dear in Silchar. A vegetable seller travelling by the Eastern Bengal State Railway is allowed to take with him, free of charge, as much vegetable as he can carry on his head or shoulders. The Traffic Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway is requested to introduce the same rule on his line with a view to cheapening vegetables in Silchar.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 30th, 1900.

65. The same paper complains of water scarcity in Haflong, Assam. The reservoir for storing up spring water which was built by Mr. Baker at a large cost has become useless, and there is only one well in the place. Two other wells should be excavated, one near the school and another in the bazar.

SILCHAR.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 22nd December, 1900.

